
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is critical for
2 the safety, health, and well-being of residents of rural areas
3 in the State, particularly those areas where access is
4 restricted to single-lane roads served by numerous bridges, that
5 transportation be maintained, especially in anticipation of
6 catastrophic events such as earthquakes and flooding. Hawaii
7 experienced two sizeable seismic events on October 15, 2006 that
8 caused electrical blackouts and disruption to transportation in
9 various areas of the State. On the island of Maui, especially
10 on the road between Hana and Kipahulu on the southeastern side
11 of the island, several bridges on the one-lane road were damaged
12 when the earthquakes fractured rock foundations beneath the
13 bridges. Paihi bridge on the Hana highway had to be closed and
14 replaced with a temporary bridge. Military helicopters had to
15 make deliveries of food, water, and fuel to residents affected
16 by the shutdown of the bridge. During the summer of 2007, a
17 landslide and heavy rains caused flooding that closed that
18 temporary bridge for two months.



1 The legislature finds that, according to a 2006 federal
2 Department of Transportation assessment, forty-six per cent of
3 Hawaii's bridges (513 of 1,110) are classified substandard, of
4 which one hundred fifty-six are classified structurally
5 deficient and three hundred fifty-seven are classified
6 functionally obsolete, ranking the State as the third worst in
7 the nation. Although a substandard classification does not
8 necessarily mean those bridges are unsafe, certain bridges will
9 never be improved up to current federal standards. For example,
10 there is no practicable way to provide two-lane access to the
11 more than fifty bridges along the one-lane Hana highway.
12 However, as experience with the earthquakes of 2006 and the
13 landslide and heavy rains during the summer of 2007 has shown,
14 the State needs to take precautionary measures in terms of
15 anticipatory disaster contingency planning to maintain continued
16 access to the numerous communities served by the Hana highway
17 and its many one-lane bridges in the event of a catastrophic
18 event.

19 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
20 transportation to prepare a disaster contingency plan to
21 maintain access to communities served by the Hana highway,
22 including its numerous one-lane bridges.



1 SECTION 2. **Disaster contingency planning; Hana highway and**

2 **bridges; report.** (a) The director of transportation shall
3 prepare a disaster contingency plan to maintain continued
4 transportation access along the Hana highway, including the one-
5 lane bridges along the highway, in the event of catastrophic
6 events such as earthquakes, landslides, or heavy rain and
7 flooding. The plan shall include at least:

- 8 (1) Identification of potential catastrophic events that
9 may impair transportation access along Hana highway;
- 10 (2) Feasible plans and actions that can be implemented in
11 preparation and anticipation of each type of
12 catastrophic event, such as seismic retrofitting work
13 to strengthen the one-lane bridges and procurement of
14 Federal Emergency Management Agency funds for such
15 work, plans for alternate routes, and plans for state-
16 county liaison and interagency cooperation;
- 17 (3) Actions to be taken during a catastrophic event; and
- 18 (4) Follow up actions to be taken after a catastrophic
19 event.

20 (b) The mayor and the council of the county of Maui shall
21 cooperate with the director of transportation on the preparation
22 of the disaster contingency plan, as requested by the director.



1 (c) The director shall submit its disaster contingency
 2 plan, including findings, recommendations, and any necessary
 3 proposed legislation to the legislature no later than twenty
 4 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2009.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
 8 department of transportation to prepare the disaster contingency
 9 plan pursuant to section 2.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 11 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
 13 except that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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 JAN 18 2008



Report Title:

Disaster Contingency Planning; Bridges; DOT Report;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires director of transportation to develop a contingency plan to maintain transportation access along Hana highway, including its many bridges, on the island of Maui in the event of catastrophic events such as earthquakes, landslides, or flooding. Report to legislature. Appropriates \$.

